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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/727,919	12/04/2003	Marvin M. Johnson	2253-01201	7550
23505 7590 09/05/2008 CONLEY ROSE, P.C. David A. Rose P. O. BOX 3267 HOUSTON, TX 77253-3267				
EXAMINER				
NGUYEN, CAM N				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1793				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
09/05/2008		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

pathou@conleyrose.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/727,919

Applicant(s)

JOHNSON ET AL.

Examiner

Cam N. Nguyen

Art Unit

1793

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04/22/08 (an RCE and amendment).
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-16, 18-77 and 112-119 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-16, 18-77 and 112-119 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 06/30/08.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Continued Examination Application (RCE)

1. A request for continued examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after the final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicants' submission filed on 04/22/08 has been entered.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 11 & 113-119 are objected to because of the following informalities:
- A. In claim 11, line 2, "combinations" should be changed to --combination--.
- B. In claims 113 thru 119, line 1, "The process" should be changed to recite --The catalyst--.
- Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 6-16, 18-77, & 112-119 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson et al., hereinafter referred to as “Johnson ‘124”, (US Pat. 4,404,124) taken together with Ryu et al., hereinafter referred to as “Ryu ‘588”, (US Pat. 6,576,588 B2).

Johnson ‘124 discloses a catalyst for selective hydrogenation of acetylene, which consisting essentially of particles of alpha alumina containing metallic components consisting essentially of palladium and silver wherein the palladium is about 0.01 to about 0.025 weight percent of the catalyst, the weight percent silver is at least twice that of the palladium, the silver is distributed throughout said catalyst particles and substantially all of the palladium is concentrated in an area within 300 microns of the exterior surface of at least 90 percent of the catalyst particles (see col. 6, claim 1).

Regarding claims 1-4, 7, & 51, Johnson ‘124 does not disclose the claimed Group VIII metal and second metal concentrations. It would have been obvious to have utilized such metal components in the amounts as taught by Ryu ‘588 to result in an effective catalyst in Johnson because it is known and evidenced by Ryu ‘588 the claimed amounts are effective (see Ryu ‘588 at col. 8, lines 12-35 and Examples in the reference).

Recitation on “wherein the catalyst is capable of selectively hydrogenating acetylene with a conversion Sc of at least about 95% and a selectivity to ethylene relative to ethane Sc of at least about 25 when the catalyst is employed in a steady-state liquid phase hydrogenation process” in the instant claim 1 and other intended use limitations set forth in the dependent claims are noted. It is considered the catalyst disclosed by Johnson would obviously be capable of performing the same because both the disclosed catalyst and the claimed catalyst contain the same metal components and having the same composition.

Regarding claims 6, 8-16, 18-50, 52-77, & 112-119, Johnson does not disclose the second metal component being zinc, Group VIIB or Mn, Group III metals or In, Ga, etc. as recited in the above listed claims. However, it would have been *prima facie obvious* to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated these known active metal components into the catalyst of Johnson in order to achieve an improved and effective catalyst material because they are known as useful catalytic metals, as evidenced by Ryu '588 (see Ryu '588 at col. 18, claim 7).

Response to Applicants' Arguments

4. Applicants' remarks filed on 04/22/08 have been fully reconsidered, but not deemed persuasive in view of the new ground of rejection(s) and/or objection(s) above.

Conclusion

5. Claims 1-4, 6-16, 18-77, & 112-119 are pending. Claims 1-4, 6-16, 18-77, & 112-119 are rejected. No claims are allowed.

Contacts

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Primary Examiner CAM N. NGUYEN, whose telephone number is 571-272-1357. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9:00 AM - 6:30 PM, at alternative work site.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stanley Silverman, can be reached on 571-272-1358. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-272-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Cam N. Nguyen/

Primary Examiner

Art Unit: 1793

/C. N. N./

September 01, 2008